

**Faculty Senate – Executive Committee**

Minutes

Monday, August 25, 2025

**Attendance:** Rob Godby (*Chair 2025-2026*), Ray Stuart Fertig III (*Chair-Emeritus*), Ashley Hope Carlisle (*Member-at-Large*), Vladimir Alvarado (*Secretary*), Tiger Robison (*Member-at-Large*), Greg Cawley (*Member-at-Large*), Brad Rettler (*Member-at-Large*), Evan Johnson (*Chair-Elect*).

**Absent:**

**Guest(s):** David Bagley (*Vice-Provost Faculty Affairs*)

Meeting called to order at 12:17pm.

Motion called to approve the agenda, seconded, carried.

There are no minutes from 5/5/2025, and thus no need to be approved.

**Chairs Report:**

Chair Godby informed the Executive Committee about the next and upcoming meetings for the Shared Governance committee. A recap of the subsequent meetings was made. Alex Keen has been added to the membership of the committee to represent the President of the University on an executive level. Next meeting of the shared governance committee to occur in September. Chair Godby notes that there has not been a lot accomplished within the committee thus far but believes that the Trustees are taking serious note of the issues raised by the committee, and that the meetings are being productive. Chair Godby believes the conversations have been productive, and that a real good-faith effort has been and is being made to address the concerns being raised. Chair Godby highlighted some of the issues in moving forward with the Shared Governance ideals being espoused. One of those issues lies in defining and creating a cohesive model of shared governance for the future. Chair noted difficulties between Faculty Senate and the University Administration in the past and noted that the committee is attempting to draft methods to help things move forward. Brad Rettler then brought up the up-and-coming staff reorganization models as a vehicle to focus the efforts of the committee and further noted that the trustee members appointed to the committee seem to be in a ‘listening’ mode rather than engaged in a more proactive stance. The charge delivered from the Committee was to deliver results and recommendations by September. A request has been made to extend those recommendations until November. Chair Godby is optimistic that good things will be happening and continue to happen in the Committee’s work. Ray Fertig issued a reminder about the other issues that prompted the Vote of No Confidence last April, and a reminder that while the No Confidence Resolution was narrowly focused, there are problems that still need to be addressed, and underlying issues that require further addressing. Chair Godby indicated that the Shared Governance Committee is in a kind of ‘reconciliation-mode’, that right now is focused on the airing of grievances of the parties involved, as well as diagnosing the problems inherent to each initial situation. Tiger Robison posed several questions regarding representation on the Shared Governance Committee and suggested increasing the number of representatives to the committee. Chair-Elect Johnson brought up several issues related to the Shared Governance committee and discussed the optics of the situation. Chair-Emeritus



commented that the no-confidence vote was strictly limited to the president, but that there was support for listing the board of trustees, general counsel, and other administrators as well. Chair Godby noted that the purpose of reconciliation is about the airing of grievances and then trying to mend the underlying issues that contributed to grievances.

Chair Godby provided an update about President Seidel not seeking another term as the president of the University, discussing some of the possible reasons for not seeking another three-year contract. Chair Godby explained some of the steps in seeking a new president for the university. A transition committee was made to help shepherd the process, and a search firm has been authorized to be utilized in searching for a new president. A search committee has been formed as well to move forward.

Chair Godby provided an update about federal policy and noted that if you receive any federal funding that might provide a service to an undocumented resident (illegal alien) it is grounds for the removal of all federal funding without a previous exception. Technology restrictions are in place against anyone who may be a citizen of previously identified enemy nations.

Chair Godby addressed some of the changes that have gone live in July, as well as noted up and coming SAP changes and adjustments that are coming or are no applicable to the state and the university. Included in this list of changes as restrictions about biological members of one gender using bathrooms assigned to that gender. Chair noted that compliance with state mandates will be utilizing federal ADA funds to renovate bathrooms for unisex use.

Budget exception request was made, and the #1 issue for funds is faculty and staff compensation. Various amounts were requested for various purposes, including a one-time grant for technical education, training and equipment. Total of budget exception request is 85 million dollars and goes direct to the governor who can then decide whether and what, to approve. Critical needs assessments have been released to the broader campus community.

## **Other Business:**

Discussion of the financial situation of the state and the University itself. Public perception of the University may or may not be contributing to a negative perception of the University throughout the rest of the state leading to questions such as “what does the university produce”.

Chair Godby brought up sitting in front of new members of faculty and providing some initial guidance on what the faculty senate can and cannot do, and the way faculty fits into the university. He also spent time talking about the optimistic versus pessimistic outlook of viewing university operations, the limitations of perspectives, and the necessity of engagement of all components of the university with the processes involved in moving the University forward. Discussion of “earned deference” to individual decision makers.

Discussion of the website maintenance plans to redeploy the website with new pages, by the end of September.

Some discussion of the need to get information from the committees. Senator’s membership and expectation of Senators and representatives is going to be discussed about the



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two-way flow of information that needs to be occurring between faculty senate and the rest of the faculty. Faculty Conciliator role needs to be filled and is likely to be brought up in the first faculty senate meeting in a couple of weeks.

Discussion of WWAMI petitioning for membership to the faculty senate – a motion was called to grant WWAMI a senator in accordance with the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

Discussion of the situation surrounding the Chair-Elect who is leaving UW at the end of the Fall Semester. Discussion of some of the possibilities in getting a new chair-elect, including revision of the by-laws for future scenarios. Discussion of some of the various rules that apply to Faculty Senate, the Faculty Coordinator, and the by-laws.

Discussion of the agenda for the coming full Senate session. Discussion of the incoming potential new incoming program on a rush mission; the necessity of needing the APC and Grad-Council committee in case the program moves forward.

Discussion of further shared governance issues related to Kinesiology, and the sudden loss of required communication related to space utilization in the

Motion to adjourn at 2:18pm; seconded, carried.